

Fig. 6 is a plan view of the embodiment of Fig. 4 with half of a golf ball below the forward extended hosel.

Fig. 7 is a plan view of another preferred embodiment of the present invention with a hosel similar to the embodiment of Figs. 4, 5, and 6 but with a major or majority portion of putterhead weight concentrated within a mass ring concentric about and remote from the putterhead center of gravity.

Description of the Preferred Embodiments

Referring to the Drawings, Figs. 1, 2 and 3 describe frontal or putterface elevational, side elevational and plan views, respectively, of one embodiment of the present invention in which the centerline forward extending hosel 1 protrudes forward, generally horizontally, from the putterface 2 at an elevation above the putter soleplane equal to or greater than the diameter of a golf ball (1.68 inches or 42.7 mm) thus avoiding interference or contact with said hosel when a ball is being struck by said putter. In this embodiment the forward hosel extension 1, protrudes forward from the face a distance approximately equal to a golf ball. The lateral 3 and upward 4 hosel sections are so arranged that the putter shaft 5 does not obscure any portion of a golf ball 6 when viewed from above (Fig. 3). Alternatively, hosel sections 3 and 4 may be replaced by a bent lower shaft section (not shown). The sight line 11 on the top surface of the forward extending section 1, the "forward extending sight line", and the "rearward extending sight line" 10 on the top of the rearward extension 7, together provide a longer sight line than would otherwise be possible without addition of said forward extending section 1 with said forward extending sight line 11. Said rearward extension 7 does not function as a hosel (shaft to clubhead connection), but provides or supports said rearward extending sight line 10, and may help support the faceplate 2 and forward

extending hosel section 1 through (not shown) or above it (shown), or the sole 8. In this embodiment, the distance between the sole plane of the putterhead 8 and the straight shaft connection point 9 is equal to or slightly less than 5 inches or 12.7 mm as currently required under The USGA Rules of Golf. The end of said upward hosel section 4 is fitted with a stop surface 9 and a slip over protrusion or rod 30 (shown) or socket (not shown) for receiving and attaching via adhesive or other means, a puttershaft 5. That portion of the putterhead with said rearward extension 7 with rearward sight line 10 on top, protruding rearward from the putterface 2 has a length equal to or slightly less than the horizontal width of said putterhead 2. The horizontal plane upper surface 11 and 10 of both said forward extending section 1 and rearward extension 7 are preferably of one color or finish (shown), contrasting with any adjacent putterhead portions visible to a golfer from above, or have a black or dark line (not shown) centered on said surface 10.

Figs. 4, 5, and 6 show a preferred embodiment of the present invention where the forward extending section 12 extends approximately 1/2 golf ball diameter forward of the putterface 2. The lateral hosel section 13 is longer and may be of thinner section than in the prior embodiment (3 in Figs. 1, 2 and 3). This makes this section 13 and the lower shaft 5 over hosel protrusion 30 less visible when viewed by a golfer from above (Figs. 3 and 6). To further reduce the shaft connecting hosel section visibility and any related sighting distraction, that portion of the lateral hosel section 3 or 13 or bent lower shaft lying over a golf ball (which ball 6 is touching or near the putterface 2 at or near the intended strikepoint 15) can be painted or finished white or light in color to take such hosel section 3 or 13 out of optical view and blend with the ball below it. To further enhance the sight picture when viewed by a golfer from above, the first several inches of the golf shaft 5 near the hosel and now directly over the ball can be painted or finished dull green or other dark non-glossy color.

In Figs. 4, 5, and 6, the upper horizontal rearward sight line extension surfaces may be on one level, as shown as 10 on Figs. 1, 2, and 3 or of multiple levels 16 and 17 in Figs. 4, 5, and 6. These horizontal plane surfaces may be preferably of white or light finish with a contrasting black or dark sight or aim line 20 (as shown in Fig. 6) or of a single color. The top